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January 22, 2002

Renata Hesse, Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
601 D Street N.W., Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530

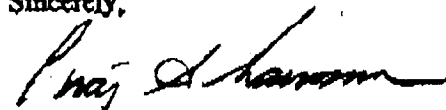
Dear Ms. Hesse:

My interest in the antitrust case, U.S. v. Microsoft, comes from my concerns as a former state legislative leader and as a satisfied customer of Microsoft products. It is no secret that Microsoft is in an incredibly competitive and combative business climate. Microsoft has maintained its position as the number 1 creator and distributor of office systems software by making sure its customers get the most innovative systems at the best prices. Perhaps this is the reason why this four-year-old case did not show that consumers were getting the poorly served by Microsoft's business decisions.

I am very concerned about the precedents which could be set if this settlement agreement is not approved, and the ball is again tossed in the air to see where it may land next. Would Microsoft be forced to give away its intellectual property, thus removing its technological edge over its competitors? Is the government going to begin micromanaging the affairs of information technology research and development, thus making it virtually impossible for any IT firm in the United States from maintaining a world leadership status? After four years in the courts, this case should have examined every possible aspect of Microsoft's business practices. I trust that the U.S. Department of Justice and nine of the 18 states in this case used good judgment in reaching their settlement.

I hope that it is allowed to end this case and allow the benefits of the settlement to help kids in disadvantaged schools. Thank you for considering my letter in this public commentary on the settlement.

Sincerely,



Craig Schaunaman